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Second Committee

Summary record of the 1st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 16 September 2004, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Balarezo ..... (Peru)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Organization of work (A/59/250, A/C.2/59/1 and A/C.2/59/L.1)

1. **The Chairman** welcomed delegations and the members of the new Bureau, Mr. Antonio Bernardini (Italy), Mr. Majdi Ramadan (Lebanon) and Ms. Ewa Anzorge (Poland), who had been elected Vice-Chairmen, and Mr. Azanaw Abreha (Ethiopia), who had been elected Rapporteur.

2. Turning to the organization of work, he said that meetings would begin promptly at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. and that, if a speaker was absent, his delegation would automatically be placed last on the list of speakers for the meeting concerned. At the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly, in 2003, the Second Committee had used only 60 per cent of the conference services allocated to it and had lost 34 hours because its meetings had started late or finished early. It was to be hoped that during the present session the Committee would be able to improve upon those statistics. In the event that a meeting rose early owing to a lack of speakers, delegations were urged to make use of the time and of the conference services provided for the meeting by holding consultations or negotiations. Statements should be limited to 10 minutes during the general debate and to seven minutes during the consideration of the various agenda items, with a certain flexibility for representatives of interest groups. Introductory statements by members of the Secretariat and representatives of agencies, funds and programmes would be limited to 10 minutes. Such statements should highlight the main points and priorities involved and should be distributed in advance, if possible.

3. For the current session, the Committee had a new programme of work which was based essentially on the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 57/270 B and 58/316 and decision 58/533, and the recommendations of the outgoing Bureau. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 58/316, the following items had been included in its agenda: "Information and communication technologies for development", "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions", "Towards global partnerships", and "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: participation of volunteers, 'White Helmets', in the activities of the United Nations in the field of humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and technical cooperation for development".

4. Resolutions under the various agenda items would be adopted not at the end of the session, as in the past, but as the items were considered. Moreover, in accordance with resolution 50/227, resolutions — especially their preambles — should be shorter, and decisions, rather than resolutions, should be used as much as possible for procedural matters.

5. Informal consultations would take place at the beginning of the session. Interest groups and delegations were therefore requested to respect the deadlines for the appointment of facilitators and for the submission of draft resolutions.

6. The number of briefings by senior officials, panel discussions on the various items in the programme of work, and keynote addresses would be reduced to a minimum and limited to those relevant to the work of the Second Committee.

7. If there was no objection, he took it that the arrangements he had outlined were acceptable to the Committee.

8. *It was so decided.*

9. **Mr. Seth** (Secretary of the Committee) informed the Committee of the changes made to the draft programme of work (document A/C.2/59/L.1), whether due to certain specific circumstances or pursuant to recommendations made by the General Committee, and noted that a revised version of the programme of work would therefore be issued.

10. **The Chairman** drew the attention of the Committee to the arrangements adopted by the General Assembly in the light of the recommendations contained in the first report of the General Committee (A/59/250) concerning the work of the Assembly and its Main Committees.

11. *The draft programme of work in document A/C.2/59/L.1, as orally amended, was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 10.55 a.m.